

State of Mountain View Worship Group

Prepared for Multnomah Monthly Meeting,
Jeff Love, presiding Clerk

May 5th, 2018

We continue to meet at the historic Episcopal Church at 601 Union Street in the Dalles, Oregon. Meetings are for one hour First and Third Sundays of the month beginning at 10:00 am. We also have begun a series of Quaker Discussions based on the new 2017 Faith and Practice. All the long time attenders and members of the Society of Friends have commented on how well written, thorough and thought-provoking is this new revision. Meeting time for this one hour discussion is 9:00 Am at the Church on the third Sundays of March through June. The group will decide then whether to continue through the summer or wait till fall to resume. These discussions have been well attended with 5 to 8 people. As a worship group we purchased ten copies to add to the two given to us by NPYM.

Our list-serve group has grown to 25 persons. We now have at least four new or returned attenders. Four persons on the list have not attended within the last year. Those include, Clayton E., who is unable to drive now and declined to accept rides from others. Our attendance is up with perhaps 10 to 12 persons on a typical Sunday. These Meetings for Worship, though sometimes nearly completely silent have been rich in the presence of the Spirit.

Seven long time members of Mountain View traveled together to Cuba for two weeks of touring the island with a guide in a small group of 12. It was a tremendous experience in cross-cultural communications. Six of the seven have fair to excellent command of Spanish, so communication flowed pretty freely. We came back stronger friends and more convinced that 'somos uno'—we humans are all One. All Mountain View attenders were then invited to an evening of reminiscing, photos and discussion at the new home of Jeff Hunter and Margie Dogotch in Hood River.

The National news continues to be distressing to our members. Several queries have come forward asking us how we can bridge the growing divide among liberal and conservative points of view. Most members have become more active either with supporting political candidates or in community service of one sort or another.

The on-going discussion of how do we make ourselves known to those who might want to join in our corporate style of worship has led us to draft a webpage that we hope to make live shortly. Thanks to a new member, Jill Hoyenga, for her energy and technical skills we are able to do this in-house.

One of our attenders, Erin Waters, requested a clearness committee to help her with an important life-decision. Two of our long time members, Shannon Perry and Jeff Hunter, agreed to serve on the committee of four under the sponsorship of Multnomah MM. It was not an easy process, though the result was clarity for Erin in her calling.

We carry on into this coming year with hopes of continuing to grow the richness of the experience of Quaker process for all our attenders.

Jeff Hunter
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